

# BREAK WITH GERMANY IS NEAR

## PROMPT AND COMPLETE SETTLEMENT OF SUBMARINE ISSUE IS NECESSARY

Otherwise, United States Will Break Off Diplomatic Relations With Germany Without a Doubt.

## INTERNATIONAL LAW MUST BE OBEYED

Recent Marine Disasters are Being Investigated to Learn if Germany has Reopened Her Illegal Warfare.

By Robert J. Bender, United Press Staff Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, March 30.—Any expectation that the administration would break off diplomatic relations with Germany, if it is proved a German submarine attacked the Sussex, was repudiated today by the state department. Only prompt and complete settlement of the whole submarine issue can prevent the threatened rupture and there are officials who believe such a settlement more likely after relations have been broken than before.

The sinking of the unarmed Eagle Point, with one American aboard, adds to the proof that a general underwater campaign in defiance of international law has been undertaken, officials believe. If this is so, must end and end quickly if the United States is to continue to deal with Germany. Disavowal of single instances will not suffice—nor reparation and punishment of guilty commanders.

Immediate cessation of such attacks and settlement of the submarine issue in all its phases, including the prohibition of the armed merchantmen, are the only ways to prevent the risk. But many officials are not prepared to believe Germany will make such concessions in short order.

Double investigation of recent marine disasters, involving Americans, under way. In the first place, American officials in England and France are seeking to determine definitely, on responsible evidence whether German vessels actually are guilty of opening illegal warfare. Secondly, Ambassador Gerard at Berlin is seeking informal information from Germany whether her submarines attacked the Sussex, Englishman, Manchester, Engineer and Eagle Point.

Many affidavits in the various cases are expected soon but the most conclusive evidence aside from possible German admission of responsibility—momentarily anticipated from the naval and military attaches assigned to examine the wreckage of the Sussex. Ambassador Gerard has not yet replied to the rush inquiry Secretary

Lansing made for details within a short time after the channel packet Sussex was attacked.

State department officials today awaited receipt of the piece of metal said to be part of a German torpedo which was found in the wrecked part of the Sussex.

Ambassador Bernstorff today flatly refused to discuss the Sussex and other recent cases. He repudiated an interview credited to him in which he was quoted as declaring a mine probably was responsible for the wrecking of the Sussex and also said there was no authority for the alleged "authoritative" announcement from Washington that Germany would disavow the Sussex attack.

The state department had a cable today from Ambassador Page at London in which Page said he had learned "from a British official source" that a British destroyer which went to the rescue of Sussex passengers was twice a target for torpedoes from a submarine. The Page report, confirming earlier press dispatches, said the torpedoes went wide.

Von Bernstorff Calls.  
WASHINGTON, March 30.—German Ambassador Von Bernstorff called at the state department at noon today. It was assumed he would discuss the submarine situation and give to Secretary Lansing any information he might have regarding the latest submarine activities.

Bernstorff spent a few minutes with Counselor Polk.

It was made known afterward that his visit concerned pending commercial questions and that recent destruction of ships bearing Americans was not discussed.

German Crisis is Passed.  
BERLIN, March 30.—The submarine "crisis" in the German reichstag has completely passed, with a victory for Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg, who urged a conciliatory policy toward neutrals.

Leaders of all parties today expressed their satisfaction at the explanation made by the government at a secret session of the reichstag's main committee. They were particularly

impressed by the speech of Admiral Von Capelle, successor to Von Tiz at the head of the department of marine.

At the conclusion of the speeches, the progressive liberal party offered a resolution to postpone indefinitely the resolutions designed to hamper the chancellor in his dealings with America and other neutrals. These resolutions, offered by the national liberal and conservative parties, directed that the government should make no agreement with a foreign power limiting the use of submarine, except with respect to passenger carrying ships.

If any attempt is made to revise these resolutions in the reichstag the progressive liberals will move an amendment. For the last sentence reading, "the liberty of the use of the submarine weapon shall be reserved in negotiation with foreign nations," they will offer as a substitute the phrase: "The liberty of the use of the submarine against Germany's enemies shall be reserved in actual and further negotiations."

Though the government is expected to issue some sort of statement on the meeting, every effort has been made to keep secret the actual statements made by Bethmann-Hollweg and Admiral Von Capelle. To insure secrecy, the reichstag's inspector personally supervised arrangements for the meeting.

## GERMANY

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]  
BERLIN, March 30.—The German war office this afternoon claimed no further important gains in the fighting around Malancourt, but announced the repulse of all French attacks in Avocourt wood, to the south. Violent artillery duels occurred last night along the Meuse.

## ENGLAND

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]  
LONDON, March 30.—That German submarines have entered on a new campaign of terrorism, despite all assurances to the contrary from Berlin, was the view unanimously taken by British officials today.

In the first two weeks of the new U boat war on armed merchantmen, inaugurated March 1, the submarines proceeded cautiously, apparently under strict orders from Berlin. During the past fortnight sinkings have averaged from three to four ships a day. Admiralty officials said today they have positive proof that U boat commanders have exercised no discrimination, but have torpedoed without warning numerous unarmed ships. Often statements concerning reported attacks on four vessels aboard which were Americans, are now en route to Washington. The British steamer Eagle Point, reported torpedoed without warning, entered the

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## KEOKUK NEWSPAPER MERGER

On and after April 3, 1916, The Daily Gate City and Constitution-Democrat will be issued as a consolidated newspaper. This arrangement is in line with the action of progressive publishers in all parts of the country, where excessive and rapidly increasing expenses of production have created a situation which would absolutely compel a material raise in subscription and advertising prices, if papers were continued as separate editions. It is a frank statement of fact to report that such a situation has existed in Keokuk, and that both local newspapers reached a critical point some time when it became absolutely necessary either to ask their subscribers and advertising patrons for more money, or to reduce their expenses in some manner. On page four of this issue will be found a list of 129 papers which have consolidated in the last three years, and as this is only a small percentage of the total number, it will be realized that the plan adopted here is no innovation.

The Keokuk consolidation is mutual and voluntary and there is positively no question but that it will result in pronounced benefit to local merchants and the community in general, besides enabling the publishers to solve a very difficult financial problem. It will require some time to perfect all plans for such a union of interests, but they will be completed as rapidly as possible, with the best interests of the city kept constantly in mind.

The political policy of the consolidated paper will be non-partisan and independent. The political news of all parties will be printed impartially and without bias.

The paper will be published every week-day, an edition being issued on Saturday instead of Sunday morning. The subscription rates will remain the same as when the papers were issued separately, 10c per week by carrier and \$3.00 per year by mail. Subscriptions which have been paid in advance will be credited in full. For the combined circulation the advertising rate will be 25c per inch on contract and 40c per inch without contract, a saving to advertisers of 5 and 10c per inch respectively. The consolidation will give the publishers opportunity to print a better newspaper and thus the readers will benefit also.

Mr. C. F. Skirvin, present publisher of The Daily Gate City, will act as general manager of the combined properties, and Mr. C. E. Warwick, formerly general manager of the Constitution-Democrat Co., will be business manager, they having purchased the entire stock of both companies.

This merger has required a heavy investment on the part of the above named, and the hearty support of all citizens is earnestly solicited. With the co-operation of the general public, which is to be expected, it will be possible to produce a publication that will reflect great credit on the city, county and section which it represents, and to save money for its patrons, while enabling the publishers to place their holdings on a better financial basis.

THE DAILY GATE CITY,  
By C. F. Skirvin.  
THE CONSTITUTION-DEMOCRAT,  
By C. E. Warwick.

## FRANCE

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]

LONDON, March 30.—Having gained a foothold in Malancourt, the Germans are now driving forward furiously to capture the whole village and gain possession of the two important highways intersecting the town.

The French position at this point is in extreme peril. From the heights to the north and northeast and the redoubt newly conquered by the Germans, German artillery is pouring a

terrific fire upon the French fortified works. The French are replying from the ridge of Dead Man's Hill and Hill 304, southeast of Malancourt, where heavy batteries command the Malancourt highways.

Despite the extent of the German advance reported yesterday, the French victory in the Avocourt woods south of Malancourt almost effaces the crown prince's successes.

### VIOLENT BOMBARDMENT.

PARIS, March 30.—Under cover of a violent bombardment, the Germans launched a heavy attack against the French front south of Somme about eighty miles from Paris. The enemy penetrated French advanced lines west of Verdandeviller, ten miles southwest of Peronne, and north of

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## DOGGING VILLA'S FOOTSTEPS OVER MEXICAN MOUNTAINS

Railways Can be Used to Send Supplies to American Punitive Expedition on Trail of the Bandit.

## "WAR" NEWS IS EFFECTIVELY CENSORED

Villa is Reported to Have Split Up His Gang Into Three Parts and Remains With But Handful.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]

EL PASO, Texas, March 30.—Several carloads of supplies for Brigadier General Pershing's troops in Mexico were ready today for shipment over the Mexican Northwestern railway, from Juarez to the Casas Grandes base. Army officers, however, admitted their disappointment over the outcome of negotiations with the Carranza government regarding the use of Mexican railways to supply the expeditionary forces. American military guards will not be permitted to accompany the munitions. The uncertainty of this source of supplies due to the poor condition of the line makes necessary continuation of the slow motor route over the desert.

It is estimated that hundreds of tons of food and forage alone are required daily for soldiers and horses in the field, without recognizing gasoline and food requirements of troops guarding the line of communication. Some of these transportation problems now regarded as the most urgent phases of the expedition, has for a time overshadowed the pursuit of Villa, interest in which has lagged on account of lack of official news.

While the United States troops were last reported pursuing Villa through the Santa Maria valley and trying to get south of him via Madera, the total absence of news of Carranza operations after the arch bandit was puzzling. Wires south of Juarez are all working. A campaign against the Reyesistas in the Torreon district is the only reported activity among the Carranza forces.

### Object Lesson in Unpreparedness.

EL PASO, Texas, March 30.—"Humiliating" proof of unpreparedness for the Mexican expedition was laid at the door of congress today by a prominent army officer in El Paso. Owing to the censorship he declined to permit the use of his name.

"We lacked aeroplanes, wireles and automobile equipment which even this little flurry has shown to be essential," he said. "In the face of these facts, it is idle talk of the United States making a successful defense of any of its borders against a strong enemy. The army might die bravely I think it would—but it would be broken to pieces before it could come."

The fault isn't the army's, but that of congress. If it teaches the people that a strong army, prepared and equipped, is necessary, it will not have been in vain no matter how humiliating the disclosures have been. "After the expedition has been days under way, we are frantically trying to buy enough equipment to feed and water our forces in the field. As for armored automobiles and trucks, all we know about them is what we have read. Our wireless equipment has been ineffective under conditions that imposed no unusual strain. Our aeroplane squad was deficient in experience and much of the equipment would have been useless under real war conditions."

In many cases the little equipment we had was faulty, not up to date and slow moving. This expedition is only an excursion to punish

a bandit and so far the country traversed has been friendly. The evident pitiable insufficiency of the army to move even a small force into a strong hostile country shows our lack of preparedness and our need of it."

Soldiers Enjoy Themselves.  
[By H. D. Jacobs, United Press Staff Correspondent.]

HEADQUARTERS AMERICAN EXPEDITION NEAR DUBLAN, (Via courier to Columbus, N. M.) March 30.—"Cabarets" and rabbit drives and the "high cost of living" serve to break the monotony of camp life here. A lieutenant commanding a troop of colored soldiers, put on a "cavalry cabaret" the other night. With the newspaper correspondents as his guests, he served coffee and hard tack in his tent while a picked quartet from the colored cavalry regiment sat outside and entertained with songs.

A good part of the camp enjoyed the music. The officers ranged from old plantation melodies to the latest metropolitan "hits."

"A pleasant time was had by all." An entire regiment of infantry officers and men, engaged in one of the rabbit drives. Armed with long sticks and added by a lone dog, the men formed a crescent shaped cordon and beat the tall grass in a gradually narrowing circle. Sixteen jack rabbits and eight cotton tails were clubbed to death.

Produce in this part of Mexico is enjoying a remarkable "bull" movement. The advent of American soldiers with plenty of real money and healthy appetites has proven a bonanza for the Mexicans and Mexicans in the vicinity.

As the soldiers and correspondents are supplied mostly with bills of large denominations, special motor trucks may be needed to carry the small change received from the produce vendors. The old Diaz silver coin is selling at fifty cents on the American dollar, but Carranza currency only about six cents.

A couple of Chinamen have established a laundry in camp and are getting rich.

The company barber charges fifty cents for a hair cut and twenty-five cents for a shave. As alkali water is anything but soothing to sensitive skins, whiskers are becoming the fashion.

Eggs, normally worth ten cents a dozen, are now fifty cents. Chickens sell at thirty cents a pound where before there was hardly any market for them. Stove wood for the chili Mexican evenings brings \$1 a load. Candles are two for twenty-five cents. Beef and pork have been boosted one hundred per cent.

### Party is Divided.

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, March 30.—Official reports received at army headquarters today, declare that Villa has reached the Guerrero mountains and that Colonel Dool's advanced cavalry has crossed the railroad which swings southwest from Chihuahua

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## EXPLOSION IN COAL MINE HAS ENTOMBED TEN MEN

Fan is Out of Commission and Shaft is Thought to be on Fire.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]  
JOHNSTOWN, Pa., March 30.—Ten or twelve men are entombed in the Robinsdale mine of the Conemaugh Smokeless Coal Co., at Seward, ten miles west of Johnstown, following an explosion at 8:20 this morning. The

explosion put the fan out of commission and the mine is believed to be on fire.

The company's electrician is inside the mine and an electrician has been sent from Johnstown to repair the fan. Until it is in operation, the rescuing parties that have been organized cannot enter the working.

Several automobiles carrying officials of the company and a first aid crew from the Cambria Steel company have left for the scene. It is feared the entombed men will be suffocated before the rescuing parties can reach them.

## ATTEMPT TO PLACE BLAME FOR NEW YORK CENTRAL WRECK

Three Possible Explanations for Accident Which Cost Nearly Thirty Lives.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]  
CLEVELAND, Ohio, March 30.—Investigation to place the blame for the double wreck of three New York Central trains at Amherst, including the twentieth Century Limited, which took a toll of twenty-seven lives and injured over forty persons, two fatalities, was under way here today.

Both state and federal officials were to attend a hearing of railway employees involved in the disaster, summoned to tell their stories of the wreck by the New York Central. H. V. Belmont, represented the interstate commerce commission. Mr. J. Hefferman and W. S. Packard, the state titlites commission. Evidence already made public shows there are but three possible explanations of the wreck and the probe was to be conducted along these lines:

Did Engineer Herman Hess, of the second division of No. 86, whose train was wrecked with the first section, fail to stop at the signal, fail to set the block signal against Hess' train as Hess alleges? Did the signal apparatus work properly? Herst says it was faulty; the New York Central denies.

The train crews of the Twentieth Century Limited and the first section of No. 86 were expected to be absolved. The engineer of the latter stopped because the block signal was against him; the engineer of the former had no warning of an obstruction in his path.

A contributing factor of the wreck was a heavy fog.

Although the New York Central claims but twenty-six persons, twenty-four of them passengers, lost their lives, morgue officials disagreed, saying they had parts of twenty-seven bodies. There were two bodies at Lorain, two at Elyria and parts of twenty-three at Amherst. Sixteen of the twenty-seven had been identified. The other eleven may never be. Seven of the unknown dead were men; three of them women.

### Pieces Out Bodies.

CLEVELAND, Ohio, March 30.—Morgue attendants at Amherst, the scene of the disastrous New York Central double wreck today pieced out one whole body from parts of a human form held in two different sacks. Before, both sacks were counted as a person each.

This makes twenty-six known dead, as admitted by the railroad company in the wreck.

Heretofore the morgue attendants at Amherst claimed they had twenty-three bodies. By assembling the pieces today, they found they had but twenty-two.

## Plan to Increase Our Navy is Explained by Secretary

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]  
WASHINGTON, March 30.—Chairman Padgett of the house naval committee, staved off today for a time at least, a long anticipated heckling of Secretary of the Navy Daniels by "big navy" members of the committee.

Daniels was allowed to tell in peace his plans to increase the navy personnel by 14,152 men and to warn the committee against giving too much heed to recommendations of individual officers who have not agreed with the general board.

Today, tomorrow and Monday will be the last days for hearings, Padgett explained, in announcing that the secretary should not be interrupted until he had completed his statement. He promised that when Daniels had finished, the time for asking questions would be divided fairly among the members.

"Has there been any great demand for that time?" Britten, of Illinois, asked. He wishes considerable for himself, it was explained.

"I recommend to the committee,"

said Daniels, "that 7,500 enlisted men, 2,500 apprentice seamen, 2,152 ship corps men and 2,000 marines be added to the navy. This would make 14,150 additional men, bringing the total personnel of the navy to 67,952."

"The general board, in July, recommended 11,000 additional men. In November the board recommended an increase of 14,000 men. When I made this estimate for 14,152 men last October, I had only the July recommendation before me."

"I want to advise the committee, the officers of the navy who have testified here have given only their personal views. Some of them have figured on the basis of every ship in the navy being in constant commission. This is not in accordance with the policy of the navy. When a ship goes to the navy yard, they contend, it should maintain its full quota of men. To this I have two objections; first, to have such a large force on the ship with only a few duties to perform, would be highly demoralizing; second, they should be put on an active vessel so their training would not relax. For these reasons

the department has adopted the policy of having only forty percent of the crew on a vessel in the navy yard."

"Former Secretary Von Meyer left only thirty-three percent of the men on ships not in active commission," Daniels sighted figures to show how difficult it was to keep up enlisted strength in the navy. He said five out of every six applicants are rejected. The enlistments of 12,875 men, on the average, expire every year.

"We have been very liberal lately in permitting the purchase of discharges," said Daniels. "In 1913, 15,556 men left the service; in 1914, 13,213, and in 1915 there were 17,157. Many of these men are not entitled to re-enlistment and the average wastage of men is 6,000 a year. Up to three years ago, the percentage of wastage was fifty-four; last year it was seventy-five. To increase the navy 15,000 men next year we would have to enlist 21,000 new men in addition to the re-enlistment. This would mean examination of approximately 14,000 applicants."

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